REMARKS

Claims 1, 12 and 19 have been amended to improve form. Claims 1-20 remain pending in this application.

Claims 1-20 have been provisionally rejected based on the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-20 of co-pending application No. 09/814,884.

While not concurring with the rejection, but to expedite prosecution, a terminal disclaimer has been filed concurrently with this amendment to overcome the rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-20 based on obviousness-type double patenting is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-13 and 15-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Fukuzawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,247,620; hereinafter Fukuzawa). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Initially, the applicant notes that the Office Action has not particularly addressed all the features of the pending claims. For example, the Office Action states that Fukuzawa discloses a register accessible by the host and configured to store data for an entry in the address table (Office Action – page 3). Claim 1, however, recites an address register accessible by the host and configured to store <u>an address of one of the entries in the address table</u>. The Office Action, therefore, has not addressed this feature.

Claim 1 also recites an address table access port accessible by the host and configured to store contents of one of the entries in the address table. The Office Action has also not addressed this feature.

The Office Action also states that Fukuzawa discloses table access logic configured to receive a command from the host to insert a new entry in the address table, identify a location in the address table to store the new entry in response to the command, and store the data from the register in the address table at the identified location (Office Action – page 3). Claim 1, however, recites table access logic configured to receive a command from the host to read one of the entries in the address table, locate the one entry in the address table in response to the command, store an address of the one entry in the address register for access by the host, and store contents of the one entry in the address table access port for access by the host. The Office Action has not addressed these features associated with the table access logic recited in claim 1.

Therefore, a prima facie case under 35 U.S.C. § 102 based on Fukuzawa has not been established with respect to claim 1. It appears that the present Office Action has addressed the features in the claims of co-pending application 09/814,818. The claims in 09/814,818, however, do not recite the same features as the claims in the present application. The applicant respectfully requests that any subsequent communication address the features in the pending claims or withdraw the rejection. In any event, the applicant will address the pending rejection, as best understood by the applicant, with respect to the actual pending claims and Fukuzawa.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a network device connected to a host located externally with respect to the network device, where the network device includes a plurality of receive elements configured to receive data from network stations and a plurality of transmit elements configured to transmit data from the network device.

The Office Action states that Fukuzawa discloses a network device connected to a host, an address table and a register accessible by the host and configured to store contents of one of the entries in the address table (Office Action – page 3). The Office Action also states that Fukuzawa discloses table access logic and points to Fukuzawa at col. 8, lines 16-32 for support (Office Action – page 3).

Fukuzawa at col. 8, lines 16-32 discloses that microprocessor 10 issues commands to address check circuit 20 to perform address information registration. Based on this portion of Fukuzawa, the applicant assumes that microprocessor 10 is considered by the Examiner to be equivalent to the claimed host. Claim 1, as amended, however, recites that the network device is connected to a host <u>located externally with respect to the network device</u>. Microprocessor 10, however, is part of bridge 1, which is apparently considered by the Examiner to be equivalent to the claimed network device (See Fukuzawa at Fig. 1).

Claim 1 also recites that the network device includes an address register accessible by the host and configured to store an address of one of the entries in the address table and an address table access port accessible by the host and configured to store contents of one of the entries in the address table. Fukuzawa discloses the use of registers 105-107 within address check circuit 20 (Fukuzawa – Fig. 2). Register 105 stores parameters, register 106 stores command codes and register 107 stores hash addresses (Fukuzawa – col. 7, line 45 to col. 8, line 3). None of these registers in Fukuzawa, or any other registers, is equivalent to an address table access port accessible by the host and configured to store contents of one of the entries in RAM 101, as required

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by claim 1 based on the alleged equivalence between RAM 101 and the claimed address table.

Claim 1 further recites table access logic configured to receive a command from the host to read one of the entries in the address table, locate the one entry in the address table in response to the command, store an address of the one entry in the address register for access by the host, and store contents of the one entry in the address table access port for access by the host.

As discussed above, Fukuzawa discloses that microprocessor 10 issues commands to address check circuit 20 to perform address information registration. Fukuzawa does not disclose or suggest that either microprocessor 10 or address check circuit 20 receives a command from a host that is located externally with respect to the bridge 1.

The applicant notes that Fukuzawa does disclose a management node 49 that is located externally from bridge 1 (Fukuzawa – Fig. 1). Fukuzawa, however, does not disclose or suggest that management node 49 issues commands to microprocessor 10 or address check circuit 20. Fukuzawa also does not disclose or suggest table access logic that locates an entry in the address table in response to a command and stores an address of a located entry in an address register for access by a host, as further required by claim 1. Fukuzawa further does not disclose table access logic that stores contents of the located entry in an address table access port for access by a host, as required by claim 1.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Fukuzawa does not disclose or suggest each of the features of claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 1 are respectfully requested.

Claims 3-11 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons claim 1 is allowable. Initially, the applicant notes that claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on the combination of Fukuzawa and Flavin (discussed below). Claim 3, however, is dependent on claim 2 and was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 based on Fukuzawa. Therefore, the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 based on Fukuzawa is improper.

In addition, similar to the discussion above with respect to claim 1, the Office Action has not particularly addressed the features of pending claims 3-11 and has apparently addressed the features in the claims of co-pending application 09/814,818. The claims in 09/814,818, however, do not recite the same features as the claims in the present application. Therefore a prima facie case under 35 U.S.C. § 102 based on Fukuzawa has not been established with respect to claims 3-13. The applicant respectfully requests that any subsequent communication address the features in the pending claims or withdraw the rejection. In any event, claims 3-13 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons claim 1 is allowable. In addition, these claims recite additional features not disclosed by Fukuzawa.

For example, claim 4 recites that the table access logic is configured to receive a command from the host to read a first one of the entries in the address table, locate the first entry in the address table, store an address of the first entry in the address register for access by the host, and store contents of the first entry in the address table access port for access by the host. The Office Action has not particularly addressed claim 4. Therefore, a prima facie case under 35 U.S.C. § 102 has not been established. The applicant

respectfully requests that any subsequent communication address claim 4 or withdraw the rejection.

In any event, Fukuzawa, as discussed above, does not disclose an address table access port as recited in claim 1. Fukuzawa, therefore, cannot be construed to disclose storing contents of a located entry in an address table access port for access by a host located externally with respect to the network device, as further required by claim 4.

For at least this additional reason, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 4 are respectfully requested.

Claim 5 recites that the entries include bin entries and heap entries, at least one of the bin entries including a pointer to one of the heap entries, at least one of the heap entries including a pointer to another one of the heap entries. The Office Action has not addressed the features of claim 5 and therefore, a prima facie case under 35 U.S.C. § 102 has not been established. In any event, Fukuzawa does not disclose the features of claim 5.

For at least this additional reason, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 5 are respectfully requested.

Claim 9 recites that when locating one of the entries to modify, the table access logic is configured to read a source address and virtual local area network (VLAN) identifier from the input data holding register and find one of the entries in the address table with a matching source address and VLAN identifier. Fukuzawa does not disclose the use of VLAN identifiers, much less the features discussed above with respect to reading a source address and a VLAN identifier from an input data hold register to find an entry in an address table with a matching source address and VLAN identifier.

For at least this additional reason, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 9 are respectfully requested.

Claim 11 also recites features associated with reading a source address and VLAN identifier. As discussed above with respect to claim 9, Fukuzawa does not disclose the use of VLAN identifiers, much less the features recited in claim 11 with respect to reading a VLAN identifier.

For at least this additional reason, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 11 are respectfully requested.

Claim 12 has not been particularly addressed in the Office Action. Therefore, a prima facie case under 35 U.S.C. § 102 has not been established. The applicant respectfully requests that any subsequent communication address claim 12 or withdraw the rejection. In any event, Fukuzawa does not disclose or suggest each of the features of claim 12.

For example, claim 12, as amended, recites a network device connected to a host located externally with respect to the network device. Claim 12 also recites an input data holding register configured to store data received from the host, where the data corresponds to a new entry to be created in the address table or an existing one of the entries to be modified or deleted from the address table.

Fukuzawa, as discussed above, discloses that microprocessor 10 communicates with address check circuit 20 to insert or delete information in address RAM 101 (Fukuzawa – col. 7, line 45 to col. 8, line 46). Microprocessor 10, however, is part of bridge 1. Therefore, Fukuzawa does not disclose an input data holding register that stores

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data received <u>from a host that is located externally with respect to the network device</u>

(i.e., bridge 1).

Fukuzawa also does not disclose or suggest table access logic configured to receive at least one of a modify table entry command or a delete table entry command from a host located externally with respect to the network device, as required by claim 12

For at least the reasons discussed above, Fukuzawa does not disclose or suggest each of the features of claim 12. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 12 are respectfully requested.

Claims 13 and 15-18 depend on claim 12 and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons claim 12 is allowable. In addition, these claims recite additional features not disclosed or suggested by Fukuzawa.

For example, claim 13 recites features similar to claim 9 and claim 15 recites features similar to features recited in claim 1. For reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to claims 9 and 1, respectively, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 13 and 15 are respectfully requested.

Claims 16 and 17 each recite that the table access logic is configured to receive a command from the host. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, Fukuzawa does not disclose receiving a command from a host that is located externally with respect to the network device (i.e., bridge 1). Therefore, Fukuzawa cannot be fairly construed to disclose or suggest the features performed by the table access logic that are associated with receiving a command from a host that is located externally with respect to the claimed network device recited in claims 16 and 17.

For at least these additional reasons, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 16 and 17 are respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 14 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuzawa in view of Flavin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,108,308; hereinafter Flavin). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Similar to the discussion above with respect to claim 1, the Office Action has not particularly addressed the features of pending claims 2 and 14 and has apparently addressed the features in claims 2 and 14 of co-pending application 09/814,818. The claims in 09/814,818, however, do not recite the same features as the claims in the present application. Therefore a prima facie case under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on Fukuzawa and Flavin has not been established with respect to claims 2 and 14. The applicant respectfully requests that any subsequent communication address the features in the pending claims or withdraw the rejection.

In any event, claims 2 and 14 depend from claims 1 and 12, respectively, and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons claims 1 and 12 are allowable. Flavin does not remedy the deficiencies in Fukuzawa with respect to claims 1 and 12 discussed above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 2 and 14 are respectfully requested.

Claim 4, 7, 9 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuzawa in view of Lawler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,978,951; hereinafter Lawler). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Similar to the discussion above with respect to claim 1, the Office Action has not particularly addressed the features of pending claims 4, 7, 9 and 12 and has apparently

addressed the features in claims 4, 7, 9 and 12 of co-pending application 09/814,818.

The claims in 09/814,818, however, do not recite the same features as the claims in the

present application. Therefore a prima facie case under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on

Fukuzawa and Lawler has not been established with respect to claims 4, 7, 9 and 12. The

applicant respectfully requests that any subsequent communication address the features in

the pending claims or withdraw the rejection.

The applicant also notes that claims 4, 7, 9 and 12 have been rejected under 35

U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Fukuzawa. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C.

§ 103 based on the combination of Fukuzawa and Lawler is inconsistent with the

rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 based on Fukuzawa. Accordingly, clarification of the

grounds of rejection of claims 4, 7, 9 and 12 is respectfully requested in any subsequent

communication. In any event, neither Fukuzawa nor Lawler, taken alone or in

combination, discloses or suggests each of the features of claims 4, 7, 9 and 12.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 4, 7, 9 and 12 are
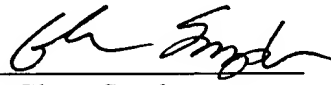
respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the applicant respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding rejection and the timely allowance of this application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

HARRITY & SNYDER, L.L.P.

By: _____
Glenn Snyder
Reg. No. 41,428

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11240 Waples Mill Road
Suite 300
Fairfax, VA 22030
Telephone: (571) 432-0800
Facsimile: (571) 432-0808